

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

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R 231106Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4967

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - OCTOBER 21-22

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT TO OCT. 21 TISHRIIN FONMIN KHADDAM REITERATED SYRIAN INTENTION TO TOPPLE SINAI AGREEMENT AND ASSERTED THAT UNDOF EXTENSION HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED BY LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN

ARAB FRONT PARTICIPATING IN PALESTINE REVOLUTION BEGAN MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS OCT. 22. ACCORDING TO SANA, MAIN SUBJECT ON AGENDA IS "STUDY OF HARMFUL EFFECTS OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AND CONDEMNATION OF IT FOR CAUSING SPLIT IN ARAB SOLIDARITY." LEBANESE CRISIS IS SECOND AGENDA ITEM.

CONCERNING EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO TREATY, OCT. 22 PRESS CLAIMED EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES SEIZED NEWSPAPER WHICH PUBLISHED PART OF HAYKAL ARTICLE AND HAVE ALSO BEGUN JAMMING ARAB RADIO BROADCASTS. STUDENT AND LABOR ACTIVISTS ALLEDGEDLY WORRY AUTHORITIES. AYN SHAMS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REPORTEDLY CONDEMNED EGYPTIAN "SURRENDER" TO ISRAEL.

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PRESS REPORTED THAT ROE CONFIRMED COMMITMENT TO PERMIT

PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH CANAL IN ACCORDANCE

WITH AGREEMENT.

OCT. 22 PRESS CLAIMED THAT FAR PEOPLE'S COUNCIL POSTPONED MEETING UNTIL NOV. 8 FOLLOWING "STORMY SESSION" DURING WHICH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO DISCUSS AGREEMENT.

OCT. 21 AL-BAATH HIGHLIGHTED KUWAIT AL-RAI AL-AAM ARTICLE CLAIMING THAT CREATION OF EASTERN FRONT WAS IN RESPONSE TO "NATIONAL DEMAND" RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE EGYPT. FOLLOWING DAY TEXT OF FOUR SECRET ANNEXES TO SINAI AGREEMENT PUBLISHED BY SAME KUWAITI PAPER REPRINTED IN SYRIAN PRESS.

OCT. 21 AL-THAWRAH PUBLISHED AFP COMMENTARY NOTING THAT POSITION OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN SYRIA BECAUSE DIFFICULT AFTER EGYPTIAN NON-RESORT-TO-FORCE PLEDGE.

PRESS REPORTED THAT ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REPS WILL MEET OCT. 22 "TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI AGREEMENT AND QUESTIONS RELATED TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO PARTIES."

IT WAS REPORTED THAT ABBA EBAN PRAISED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SERVICES TO ISRAEL DURING PAST TWO YEARS.

3. COMMENTARY

FONMIN KHADDAM ISSUED LONG STATEMENT REPORTED IN

OCT. 21 TISHRIIN UNDER HEADLINE, "FAILURE OF (ATTEMPT TO) ARABIZE CRISIS IN LEBANON; WE WILL OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT AT INTERNATIONALIZATION; SADAT AND AMERICA STRIVE TO LIQUIDATE EFFECTS OF OCT. WAR." KHADDAM CHARGED THAT "EGYPTIAN COMMAND AT THIS STAGE CONSTITUTES TOOL OF AMERICAN-ISRAELI STRATEGY AIMED AT ELIMINATING EFFECTS OF OCT. WAR, AT SUPPORTING EVEN CONTEMPLATION OF USE OF FORCE

AGAINST ISRAEL, AT DISRUPTING ARAB SOLIDARITY, AT LIFTING WORLDWIDE BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON ISRAEL, AND AT SPREADING AMERICAN UMBRELLA OVER AREA." CONCERNING UNDOF RENEWAL, HE CLAIMED THAT "THIS SUBJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE LEADERSHIP." KHADDAM REITERATED SARG COMMITMENT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND ITS INTENTION TO MOBILIZE ARAB PUBLIC OPINION TO TOPPLE AGREEMENT.

STAFF BRIGADIER MUHAMMAD AL-SHAIR AUTHORED ARTICLE OPINING "OCT. WAR PROVED THAT IT IS FEASIBLE FOR SINGLE ARAB COUNTRY TO DEFEAT ISRAEL."

ANOTHER COLUMNIST OCT. 21 CLAIMED THAT "IMMEDIATELY IN WAKE OF TRAITOROUS AGREEMENT ISRAEL INITIATED ENDEAVORS TO CREATE TENSE ATMOSPHERE ON GOLAN FRONT." HE REMARKED

THAT AIM OF THIS CAMPAIGN WAS TO SECURE SYRIAN CONCESSIONS
SIMILAR TO THOSE EXTRACTED FROM EGYPT.

OCT. 22 AL-BAATH EDITORIAL NOTED THAT LEBANESE CRISIS
CONNECTED TO SINAI AGREEMENT, WHICH CONSTITUTES "HUGE STRATEGIC
RETREAT IN MARCH OF ARAB STRUGGLE." AUTHOR URGED THAT
AGREEMENT BE TOPPLED AND EASTERN FRONT BE CREATED AS "STRATEGIC
SUBSTITUTE FOR SINAI FRONT."

DR. GHAZI HUSSEIN WROTE IN AL-BAATH THAT "ABSOLUTE
SUPPORT BY U.S. FOR ISRAEL WILL COST IT HIGH PRICE IN NEAR
FUTURE AND DESTROY ITS INTERESTS IN ARAB AREA."
MURPHY

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